

MARCH 2007
NORTHERN COMMAND

SAFESTAT REPORT

Highway Patrol Division
Major Tony Almaraz

Overview

The month of April 2007 showed a noticeable decrease in traffic accidents by 16.2% overall. While some of this decrease can be attributed to mild weather conditions, the troopers within the command are working hard, even though short staffed, to continue this downward trend. As the summer months approach, there will be a significant change in traffic that will undoubtedly have an effect on this reduction. On an even better note, the Northern Command had no fatal accidents on any highways.

Overall activity increased slightly as compared to last month. Some of this is due to the efforts of individual troopers stepping up when staffing is low. As for DUI enforcement, even though there was not much gain, it needs to be noted that the Reno urban graveyard troopers were instrumental in obtaining 84 arrests out of the 118 reported. Those troopers that contributed to this effort should be congratulated.

Rural operations have continued to show their support for the mission. As always, another increase in monthly activity with a decrease in traffic accidents continues to occur. Several new programs are anticipated within the Fernley district that will hopefully begin to show efforts in school bus enforcement as well as education on rural highways.

While the Carson/Minden/Tahoe area showed a decrease in accidents, field activity was down due to personnel shortages and training. However, in the month of May there is anticipation that one of the vacancies will be filled as well as a possible reinstatement to facilitate the other. Some traffic enforcement plans projected for this area will concentrate on crosswalk enforcement using the motors and decoy officers.

The Commercial enforcement section exceeded most of its goals and objectives set forth in the 2006/2007 CVSP. Several brake safety checks have been conducted in various urban and rural areas with large successes. Next month, there are continued plans for brake inspections.

Overall, the staff within the Northern Command continues to work with pride and service despite the minimal staffing. In conclusion, the Northern Command is committed to serving the citizens of this State and providing the best public safety in Nevada.

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NORTHERN COMMAND

CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	Apr 07		Apr 06	% Change		Mar-07	% Change
Total Crashes	285		340	-16.2%		324	-12.0%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	194		235	-17.4%		209	-7.2%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	91		105	-13.3%		114	-20.2%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	0		0	0.0%		1	-100.0%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	15		21	-28.6%		15	0.0%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	0		0	0.0%		1	-100.0%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	0		0	0.0%		1	-100.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	9		18	-50.0%		21	-57.1%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicles	7		14	-50.0%		15	-53.3%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	2		4	-50.0%		6	-66.7%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 0.0%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 5.3%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 0%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 3.2%

CRASH ANALYSIS:

The Northern Command had an outstanding month in the area of crash reduction. When compared to the same month last year, total crashes dropped by 16.2%. Property crashes dropped by 17.4%, Injury crashes by 13.3% DUI crashes dropped by 28.6%. There were no fatal crashes for the month of April.

There were also significant drops in all crash reporting categories when compared to last month.

FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	Apr 07		Apr 06	% Change		Mar-07	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes **	15		21	-28.6%		15	0.0%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes **	118		118	0.0%		144	-18.1%
Other Arrests	532		542	-1.8%		695	-23.5%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) **	262		258	1.6%		299	-12.4%
Speed violations	2401		2140	12.2%		2654	-9.5%
Hazardous moving violations	663		728	-8.9%		798	-16.9%
Occupant restraint violations *	392		365	7.4%		386	1.6%
Total violations [above violations included]	5929		5531	7.2%		6810	-12.9%
Commercial Enforcement	0						
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	25		73	-65.8%		9	177.8%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	22		54	-59.3%		17	29.4%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6]	621		724	-14.2%		521	19.2%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	5		0	500.0%		0	500.0%
Total safety violations -- citation	360		307	17.3%		184	95.7%
Total safety violations -- repair order	2430		2576	-5.7%		1667	45.8%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	106		57	86.0%		74	43.2%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	87		119	-26.9%		67	29.9%
Total school buses inspected	184		117	57.3%		345	-46.7%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	22		22	0.0%		34	-35.3%
Total trucks weighed	255		414	-38.4%		1076	-76.3%
Total overweight citations	24		53	-54.7%		17	41.2%
Total dyed fuel inspections	607		381	59.3%		249	143.8%
Total dyed fuel citations	2		0	200.0%		4	-50.0%

* Seat belt and child restraint

** Commercial Enforcement Activity Included

FIELD ENFORCEMENT:

Overall field enforcement efforts were up when compared to the same month last year. Total violations increased by 7.2%.

However, almost all reporting categories for enforcement were down when compared to last month.

The Commercial Enforcement Section remains very strong and is still on pace to meet all federal goals.

RENO URBAN TRAFFIC

The Reno Urban area remains understaffed with 33 out of 39 trooper positions staffed. One of the vacancies is being held by a trooper on military active duty. A trooper will report by June to fill another vacancy. The urban area remains on 5 X 8 scheduling due to the manpower shortage.

The Reno area had a decrease in traffic crashes comparable to last month's statistics. There were 153 total crashes this month compared to 171 crashes in March. This is a decrease of 10.5 %. The only identifiable trend is the decrease in the number of Commercial Vehicle crashes and DUI crashes. The urban area handled 5 commercial vehicle crashes during April of this year, compared to 14 during the same period last year and 11 last month. There were 8 DUI crashes this month compared to 13 in April of last year and 11 crashes in March of this year.

Total enforcement was down 10.7% from last month with 2790 violations compared to 3123 violations last month. There was an increase of 20.7% in total violations comparable to April 2006. Reno Urban had a total of 100 DUI arrests prior to crashes this month compared to 102 last month for a 2.0% decrease. This was a 16.3% increase over the same time period compared to last year.

There was a slight decrease of 3.4% in speed violations from last month's enforcement with 827, however, there was a 34.7% increase in speed violations compared to this time last year. There were 357 hazardous moving violations this month compared to 410 last month compared to 322 in April of last year.

Reno Urban reported 139 occupant restraint violations compared to last months 116, this is a 19.8% increase.

The shifts plan on continuing directed enforcement efforts in congested areas to reduce hazardous moving violations and crashes. Day shift and Swing shift will continue to utilize the speed trailers in an effort to make the motoring public aware of their speeds throughout the Reno area.

All Urban troopers should be commended for their outstanding efforts in reducing traffic accidents and their increase in occupant restraint violations.

CARSON/TAHOE/MINDEN

For the month of April, CTM showed a decrease in total accidents from both last month and even with last year. CTM also showed a decrease in Property accidents from last month and last year. CTM showed a decrease in Injury accidents from last year and even with last month. 13 or 14.9% of CTM's accidents were weather related.

For the month of April, total field enforcement was down from last year and last month. CTM's speed activity was down from last year and last month. DUI arrests prior to crashes was up from last year and down from last month. Total persons arrested were up from last year but down from last month. CTM was down in DUI arrests from crashes from last year but up from last month. CTM had a decrease in hazardous moving violations over last year and last month. CTM had an increase in occupant restraint violations over last year but down from last month.

CTM had several personnel issues during April. A trooper was pulled for one week to cover court/warrants.

Troopers Rich Bailey and Todd Hartline were promoted to Sergeant effective 04-23-07; this caused a manpower shortage on Swing Shift. A trooper was moved from Day Shift to Swing Shift to even out workers. These changes disrupted the normal flow of the shifts, during this transition period.

FERNLEY/FALLON

For the month of April, Fernley/Fallon district personnel continue to support the concept and trend that proactive enforcement reduces crashes. Again, this month's data shows an increase in violations issued, and a reduction in crashes.

The District reports a 12% decrease in total crashes compared to last year. All crash data categories report a reduction when compared to last year. Property damage crashes decreased 5.9%, injury crashes decreased 25%, and there were no fatal crashes to report. Weather and road conditions were mild this year by comparison which helped to decrease crashes. Additionally important is the continued strong work ethic, and increased field enforcement efforts by district personnel.

Field enforcement increased 8.1% compared to last year with an enforcement directive towards speeding and occupant restraint violations. Speeding violations increased 28.1%, and occupant restraint violations increased 16.5% compared to last year. Area officers continue to work the commercial enforcement program, which continues to deliver an increase in violations and a reduction in crashes.

Area sergeants continue to reduce overtime. For the month of April, overtime was again reduced by 59.3% compared to last year, a savings of 138 hours. The Yerington area is still carrying one vacancy.

The Fernley/Fallon area sergeants and troopers continue their pursuit of the division's goals and objectives. Area officers remain clearly driven, as they continue to work towards the goals of the division. Area personnel remain committed to the citizens and visitors of the state of Nevada, in maintaining a safe highway system in which to travel.

COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

The Northern Command Commercial Enforcement section currently has 22 assigned people. During the month of April, commercial staffing level had only one vacant position. In addition to this vacant position, another commercial trooper was temporarily assigned to help re-write the current Division accident investigation lesson plan. Along with the re-write, this trooper will assist in the instruction of the upcoming academy classes throughout the state. We also had another trooper out on FMLA for the entire month.

In March 2007, the 2006-2007 CVSP was signed and in April 2007, funding was finally available for the Northern Command, Commercial Enforcement Section to start traveling to the Las Vegas area to assist in commercial enforcement in the high collision areas. In April, three personnel traveled to Las Vegas. The team conducted 59 vehicle inspections; 49 moving violations; issued 77 citations; recorded 325 mechanical violations; put 16 drivers and 19 vehicles out-of-service. They also found 5 overweight commercial vehicles.

The Commercial Enforcement section exceeded most of its goals and objectives set forth in the 2006-2007 Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan (CVSP).

For the past year, the Commercial Enforcement section has assigned personnel to "scale teams." These teams target secondary roadways in the Northern Command area looking for overweight commercial vehicles. During the next few months we will double our scale

enforcement teams. The added weight enforcement teams should enable the Northern Command closer to obtaining our 2006/2007 CVSP interstate and secondary roadway goals and achievements.

Along with the increase in construction in the area, the cost of gasoline and diesel are on the rise. With the increase cost of diesel, there may be more commercial vehicles using red dyed fuel. In the coming months, we will be working more of the outline areas in order to target commercial vehicles using dyed fuel.

In the next couple of months, the Commercial section will be contacting local casinos to conduct Level I inspection on their smaller passenger vehicles (buses). With this new arrangement, we will make sure the local casino transportation buses meet the federal standards. We will schedule the inspections with the casino's so as not to interrupt their normal transportation schedules.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 2nd- Unannounced Nationwide Brake Check will be held at the Wadsworth check-site.

May 15th to 19th- Cargo Tanker School will be held at the Reno NHP office.

May 21st- May 25th- Second STEP team will be in Las Vegas working the high collision corridors.

June 5th to 8th- The statewide 72-hour check-site will be held at the Garson check-site.

June 9th- State Challenge and Trucker's Challenge; which will be held at the Stead airport.

INTERAGENCY CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT (ICE) TEAM

This is the tenth month of statistics reporting for the DPS Northern Command ICE Team as it has just become functional officially July 1st, 2006. There are no comparison statistics for prior annual periods.

We handled no crashes this month.

This month saw our officers spending less time in the field due to training, leave and special assignments. As a result, field activity showed decreases in both the enforcement and networking arenas.

Field enforcement activity included:

- 3 separate stops resulted in misdemeanor warrants,
- 1 stop resulted in a felony warrant,
- 1 stop resulted in the arrest of 2 illegal citizens
- 1 stop resulted in 17 grams of marijuana seized

The ICE Team is currently staffed with 2 officers and 1 Sergeant. One Trooper has been reassigned to Traffic Operations and has left a vacancy on the team. Total work hours lost was 480, or 69.4% of the 692 total staff hours. Our officers attended 230 hours of training, used 12 hours of comp leave, 64 hours of annual leave and 33 hours of sick leave. The remaining lost time was spent with non-interdiction activities, such as; Preparation of the OCJ Grant, training and meetings. We accrued 12.5 hours of comp time and 11.5 hours of overtime, 3.5 hours of which is covered by our CJA grant.

The allied agencies' staff commitments were fair in April. K9's are still in high demand. Most of the equipment has arrived and we have received training for nearly all of it.

Our P & P officer will soon begin phase "D" of the PSTO training. Upon completion of his PSTO program, we can briefly expect an additional unit on the road full time until he is

needed at P & P again in mid-June. This officer is expected to be replaced by another P & P Officer, who will have to complete the PSTO Program before being able to function as a solo unit.

The upcoming months will include recruitment and training for both the Trooper and P & P Officer vacancies.

AIR OPERATIONS

The Northern Command aircraft flew a total of 62 hours during April. Of the total, 38 hours, or 61% of total flight time was spent on airborne speed enforcement activities. Five personnel transports were conducted during the month; the Chief was flown to Elko and Las Vegas for National Telecommunications Week dispatcher awards and three NDI investigators were flown to Las Vegas to for interviews. These personnel transports accounted for 13 hours, or 21% of the flight time. Two prisoner transports were also accomplished during the month accounting for 5.9 hours, or 10% of the flight time. NDOT's usage of the plane for the month was 3.4 hours or 5.5% of the flight time.

The plane was out of service for scheduled maintenance April 25, 26 & 27.

14 speed enforcement missions were scheduled for the month, 10 were flown. Two were cancelled for inclement weather, one for the chief's transport to Las Vegas and one for maintenance.

A total of 458 enforcement actions were taken. The breakdown is as follows:

Speed:	378
Hazardous Moving	16
Non Hazardous	56
Seat Belt	8

There were three arrests; two warrants and one DUI. Two vehicles were impounded and seven motorists were assisted.

The high speed for the month was a red Dodge at Derby Dam on the 20th- 96 MPH.

Compared to April of last year, total activity is up 22% and total flight time is down 12%.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	Apr 2007	Apr 2006	% Change	Mar 07	% Change
FRONT OFFICE					
Accident Reports Processed	307	291	+5.50%	373	-17.70%
Arrest Reports Processed	273	214	+27.57%	230	+18.70%
Incident / Officer Reports Processed	20	11	+81.82%	19	+5.26%
Office Accident Reports Taken	16	12	+33.33%	10	+60.0%
Citations Processed	3602	3597	+0.14%	2834	+27.10%
COURT / WARRANT					
Warrants Received	810	464	74.57%	754	7.43%
Warrants Entered:	173	218	-20.64%	496	-65.12%
Warrants Pack/Double Check:	454	Unk		1251	
Warrants Cleared	393	398	-1.26%	922	-57.38%
Warrants Validated	2927	111	2536.94%	1785	63.98%
Warrants Updated or Purged	564	Unk		518	8.88%
TOTAL	5321	1191	346.77%	5726	-7.07%
COMMUNICATION CENTER					
Radio Transmissions	164569	109978	49.64%	117570	39.98%
CAD incidents	22234	14399	54.41%	15363	44.72%

FRONT OFFICE

For the first time since last year, the Records Section is fully staffed. The vacant Administrative Assistant II position was occupied on March 26, 2007 by an AA II who formally assisted the Command staff. Whereas a transfer from the Reno Parole and Probation office accepted the vacant AA II position located in the Command section.

Both clerks involved with the Court Services section are still being utilized for front office coverage. As well, these two clerks have performed 66 court call-offs. They were also responsible for 19 court runs, processing 251 subpoenas, processing 389 citations for court, and 216 pieces of transport and miscellaneous court paperwork. Overtime utilized by the records section continues to be for backlog reduction and archiving the 2002 DUI and fatal accident reports.

The film clerk processed 107 Veripic cases this period; as well as 14 digital photo requests and 1-35mm requests. She is still assisting with Storekeeping duties and is back-up to the Evidence Custodian.

Sick leave increased this period by 48%, with compensatory leave decreasing by 70%. Annual leave increased by 74%. Paid overtime decreased by 76%. Compensatory time earned increased by 10% despite the front office changes and vacancy. Paid overtime and compensatory time needs to continue for performing tasks optimally due to the vacant AAI position.

Office reports taken increased to 16 for the month. During this period, accident reports taken by troopers decreased by 18%. Arrest reports increased by 19%. Incident reports taken by troopers have increased by 5%. Citations issued and processed increased by 27%.

COURT WARRANTS

The vacant AAI position has been filled. Warrant statistics continue to climb. We have increased significantly in all areas. With the recording of the true number of warrants validated, a more accurate picture of the workload can be seen. The project to remove warrants for deceased persons has been very successful and has now been expanded to include warrants older than 10 years. This information is being sent to the courts and is partly responsible for the significant increase in cleared and purged warrants. There continues to be an average of 5,000 to 5,500 warrants handled per month.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Northern Command Communication center is fully staffed. With 4 trainees at the same time, the entire staff of the Center is involved in training, evaluation, and remediation (when necessary) of new employees in addition to their other regular dispatching duties.

Total work hours lost increased by 149% since last month primarily due to an increase in comp leave taken. It increased by 129.87% from the previous year because of an increase in sick leave. Some of the comp leave was due to the mandated reduction to 90 hours. The majority of sick leave was due to the hospitalization of one employee. She has since recovered and returned to work.

Paid overtime increased by 124.68% when compared to last month. Overtime as a whole increased by 87.19% when compared to the same period last year and increased by 31.37% when compared to last month. The majority of this was to cover the sick leave mentioned above and to cover shifts not yet covered by employees in training.

Radio transmissions increased by 49.64% over this period last year and increased 39.98% since last month. CAD incidents have increased by 54.41% over last year and 44.72% since last month. These fluctuations appear to be caused by increased traffic calls due to increased population and the number of units in the field. This increase has been consistent and reflects a need to increase our staffing to accommodate the increase in population of our Command area. Some of the increase is also reflected in field unit special enforcement, such as seat belt enforcement and directed enforcement.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

The month of April was filled with a number of special events that were staffed in Northern Command. At the beginning of the month, a traffic safety presentation was delivered to a group of driver's education instructors from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) at their annual conference in Reno. Updated traffic laws, common accident causing violations, and impaired driving were a few of the topics that were covered. Another traffic safety presentation was given to a group of employees from a business in Sparks whose drivers log a number of daily miles throughout rural Nevada. A few of our personnel also attended the fourth annual career and safety awareness fair at the Damonte Ranch High School. Students had the opportunity to learn about the career challenges we face each day in law enforcement as well as get a personal perspective by interviewing a trooper about the day-to-day activities we perform on our shifts.

Also during the month, Public Information Officers (PIO'S) from a number of agencies who are apart of the Joint Information Center (JIC) met in Carson City for their quarterly meeting and received some training on the computers that would be used in a real world emergency.

The Northern Command received its newest educational tool labeled the "Seatbelt Convincer" that was paid for by a federal grant. The grant was secured by the DPS-Office of Traffic Safety. This new piece of equipment allows a person to sit in a seat restrained with a seatbelt that is mounted on a ramp attached to a trailer, to experience a 5 mph simulated crash. The idea is to "convince" those who volunteer to ride how important seatbelt usage is. We anticipate a traffic safety presentation along with a demonstration of this equipment at a different school every week. Our Las Vegas office is expected to receive their convincer trailer in May and will adopt a similar schedule of instruction/demonstration.

As we approached the end of the month, a number of DPS employees and law enforcement officers and personnel from other law enforcement agencies volunteered their time in uniform at the annual "Tip-A-Cop" event at the Claim Jumper restaurant. Volunteers shadowed the restaurant staff in an effort to collect monetary tips for Special Olympics Nevada. This was our fourth year at this restaurant and we raised \$5,174 dollars, an increase of \$54.00 over last year. All of the monies will stay in northern Nevada to allow the athletes to participate in their training and Olympic Games at no cost to their families.

As we look ahead to the month of May and the rest of the warm summer months, more events will be staffed in our communities of northern Nevada. We are still continuing to provide 5 live traffic reports each weekday morning on KOLO News Channel 8 and as well as on 94.5 FM Cub Country.

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